

# SIERRA HOPE

HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES, PROGRAMS & EDUCATION

*Sierra HOPE's mission is to promote individual dignity and support the health and well-being for at risk members of our community through compassionate services.*

Volume 2, Issue 1

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2022



## MESSAGE FROM JERRY:

We had another good showing at this year's NorCal AIDS Ride that took place May 21-22 in Sacramento with Board Member Xan Adams riding and myself serving as support along the bike route. This important Northern California Biking event supports agencies like Sierra Hope that provide supportive services for people with AIDS. Sierra Hope has been a beneficiary since 2015 and recently received \$5,000 from this fundraiser (we've received as much as \$15,000 some years which represents a significant contribution to our services and support.) The ride normally covers 300 miles in 4 days, but this year was shortened to

just 2 days covering 140 miles due to continued COVID-19 concerns.

Jerry and Xan made it through the weekend in good shape. Xan rode the 100 mile route on Saturday, but missed out on lunch because he got lost myriad times and his "detours" put him way behind. He had to turn around a bit early to rejoin the group, but his detours more than made up for those "lost" miles. Jerry suffered only a slight sunburn handing out water at rest stops along the route. The Sierra HOPE team was able to contribute \$2072 to the Norcal AIDS Cycle, and this year, the NCAC raised a total of \$153,400!

I'd like to thank all who have contributed in support of Xan and the other riders in this race. If you want to help or have ideas emails me [here](#).

*Jerry Cadotte, Executive Director*

## Program Updates

**HIV Care:** The State of California is contracting with Sierra Hope to provide support and services to Mono & Inyo counties and the 395 corridor, and progress is being made on securing staffing for intake and support services. This person may also help support Sierra Hope's housing programs as well.

**Contract w/ Calif Rent relief:** This program ended March 31. Sierra Hope had brought on one staff person specifically to assist individuals with the completion of the rather complex online form and help both tenants and landlords to successfully navigate the program. Overall, the program helped roughly 100 people complete their applications.

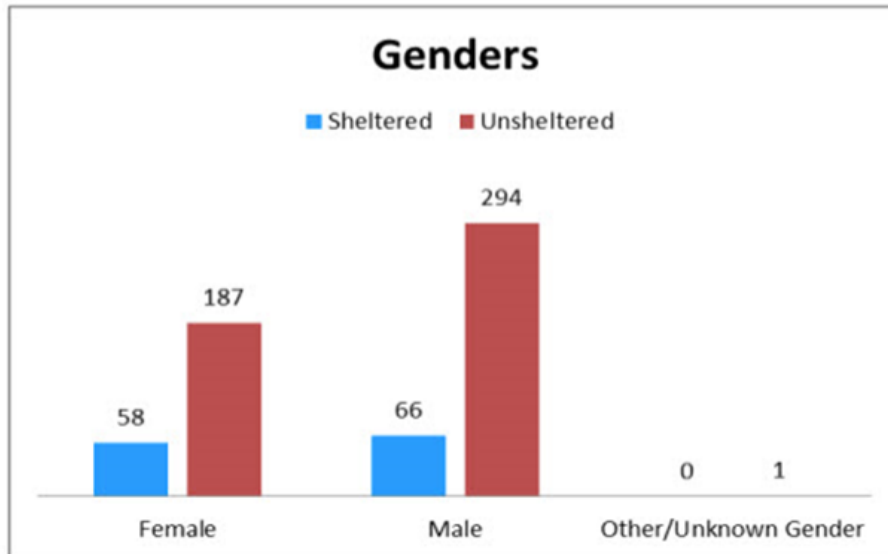
**Transitional Housing "Hope House":** Installation of a new vinyl floor has been completed and Sierra Hope thanks Pinnell Flooring for the generous donation of materials and installation. The carpet in our "Hope House" really needed replacing and the new vinyl floor looks fantastic. Other repairs, like painting and mattress replacements have also been completed and a new house manager has also been brought on. The new house manager will be present from 3-9pm at least 5 days a week and has over 20 years' experience in apartment management so it's a great fit. Referrals for residency at Hope House come from Calaveras County Health & Human Services and from within the community. Once residents find a solid housing opportunity they are also eligible to tap into Sierra Hope's Rapid Rehousing program for funds.

**Permanent Supportive Housing:** Sierra Hope funds 3 apartments in Angels Camp and these are presently being completely refurbished. While under construction, residents are being housed in hotels and with family until the newly appointed apartments are ready in August. Each will feature new heating and AC systems and will also be more energy efficient.

**Heroes Fighting Hunger** – Sierra Hope's Food pantry serves roughly 25 families every week and Steve and Don, our volunteers, are always there to greet them and help out. This program is made possible by our Heroes Fighting Hunger – [25 individuals who pledged \\$25 for the year](#). We will be kicking off our 2023 season in August so keep an eye out if you want to join our great team.

## Point in Time Homeless Count Results

This annual activity was completed Jan 26 and went better than expected with Covid still an issue. The count is a requirement for communities that receive Federal or State funding to fight homelessness. The Central Sierra Continuum of Care, which includes Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties, coordinates the count for our region. Sierra HOPE participates in the Calaveras portion of the count. As always, there was excellent cooperation and coordination with the Angels Camp PD Officer McDermid who provided information about people they were aware of and where we might find them to interview.



Comparison of Homeless Data by County					
County	Sheltered		Unsheltered		Couch Surfing
	Households	People	Households	People	People
Amador	20	27	117	157	2
Calaveras	18	26	66	96	39
Mariposa	27	27	19	19	0
Tuolumne	33	44	169	222	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>76</b>

## Fundraising Activities

**Donation Received!** THANK YOU RUBY PARLOR – Sierra Hope received a generous donation of \$500 from the Native Daughters Ruby Parlor which will shore up our unrestricted funds that we use to fill the gaps that grants may not cover. So appreciated!!

**Funding Opportunity** - Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) round 3 is open and Sierra Hope has submitted a letter of intent. We received funding from Round 1 and 2. Round 1 funds staffing and operations for the Sierra Hope transition house, round 2 is

tunding the we're using permanent supportive housing location in Murphys. This most current might be used to bring on more staff and provide more services – like onsite counselling for example that may lead to more successful transitions to secure housing. Perhaps we can expand our permanent supportive housing with the apartments. Round 4 will be available in 2023.

**SAVE THE DATE!** This year's **Walk for Hope at Calaveras Big Trees State Park will be held September 24<sup>th</sup>** so mark your calendar and keep an eye out for our kick off email! We are encouraging new sponsors to get involved so if you or someone you now would like to be a sponsor, get in touch with [Jerry](#).



Serving the  
residents of  
Amador,  
Calaveras &  
Tuolumne  
Counties



## Why Sierra Hopes (Success Story) Written by Christina Mendoza, Staff

Like so many, this Client had been homeless and living in their car for many years. An individual Called Sierra Hope in need of help to get off the streets. This person had no money and no job, and was very scared about their future. Client was tired and stressed and no longer wanted to live in their vehicle.

In possession of a strong work ethic from day one, this individual just needed to get into a place of their own; somewhere to get out of the elements. Client met with case manager and talked about various options such as homeless shelters, apartments and rooms to rent. An affordable place in Calaveras County was found after looking for a few months. Client was approved and moved into a room they could call their own in a beautiful home in Calaveras County. Client was very excited to finally have a place to call their own.

It's hard applying for jobs while being homeless, the fear is every present that you won't be called back due to lack of a home and a place to shower and wash their clothes and be presentable for work. After less than three months however living in their very own room, Client went on a few job interviews and found the perfect fit! A happy call was placed to the case manager to inform her that the Client had found a part time job with great hours! Client says

that without Sierra Hope's help to get back on their feet by providing rental assistance, they would not be where they are today. Client now has a job, feels proud of the accomplishment and progress, having a roof over their head and is well on their way to being able to sustain their rent completely on their own!



## Welcome New Board Member Matt Graham

Matt is a retired teacher who spent much of his career as an education technology teacher and coordinator for Elementary schools. He was active in many aspects of school improvement and leadership. "After retiring from teaching, I wanted to donate time to charitable works. I serve on a team at our church and use my skills to support the church. I have an interest in food and housing issues; so, when I was invited to join the board, it was a good match for me. I knew at least two members of the board and heard about it at church; so, I had confidence it was a well-managed charity. I hope to learn more about housing issues and support the efforts of Sierra Hope to alleviate homelessness and hunger in our region."

Matt is a graduate of U.C. Davis and St. Mary's College in Moraga. He earned his Master's in Education from California State East Bay and later his School Administration Certificate. Matt has many hobbies including photo retouching, amateur songwriting, and woodworking. His technology passion is teaching young children the creativity of programming and digital arts. He is married to Liz Graham who together manage a hobby ranch of goats, chickens, dogs, and cats. Matt is joining the budding digital team to provide leadership and guidance as we further expand our community communications and digital fundraising campaigns.

Do you have any special fundraising skills that can help Sierra Hope and wish to volunteer? Drop us a line at [jerry@sierrahope.org](mailto:jerry@sierrahope.org).



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